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HISTORY OF SOUND VIEW  
ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST  
CHURCH  
COMPILED BY BRENDA PAGE

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History of Sound View Original Free Wil

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## HISTORY OF SOUND VIEW ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

Records referring to our church indicate that in 1887 the General Conference of the Free Will Baptist Churches appointed Rev. W H. Slaughter to serve as a missionary and establish a church in eastern North Carolina. The church was established in 1888 with 23 members and was located on the west side of the east prong of Gales Creek. The church was named Gales Creek Church. Records of the November 1893 General Conference indicate that the church became a member of the conference in 1893 and that the motion to accept our church was made by Rev. W R. Sawyer. In 1896, the General Conference divided to form two conferences, and Gales Creek Church became a charter member of the Eastern Conference.

As was the case in most areas, the church building also served as a school during the week and offered a basic education of Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic. Sunday services were simple and dignified. Even though there was no piano or choir, someone in the congregation would begin singing a song; and everyone would join in. Transportation was poor so services were not available every Sunday. Some of the earlier members traveled by horse and buggy or by horse and cart. Others walked several miles for the round trip. At the 1897 conference, the church reported five new members, four baptisms, one death, and one excommunication. The church congregation totaled 35. Early pastors of the church were W. H. Slaughter, Warden Lewis, William Lupton, John Sewell, and Mr. Avery. D. J. Hall served as clerk of the church in 1902.

A new church building was constructed in 1920 on Hibbs Road about a quarter of a mile off Highway 24. The old building was torn down, and the materials were

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used to help build a school near the new church. On October 25, 1923, the name of the church was changed at the 28<sup>th</sup> annual session of the Eastern Conference to Sound View Original Free Will Baptist Church. Records of quarterly church meetings date back to February 1929, when W. B. Everett was pastor and Alonza Thomas Garner was clerk. The congregation totaled 45 members.

N. D. Wiggs became pastor of the church in 1933. At this time, most of the quarterly meeting reports pertained to the appointment of the delegates to the Union Meetings and the appointment of committees to write letters encouraging delinquent members to attend church. Luke Wetherington became pastor in 1934, Denard B. Garner in 1938, W. E. Anderson in 1940, and J. C. Griffin in 1941.

In 1943, David Hansley was elected pastor and it was decided that the church was too far from Highway 24. Therefore, on Thanksgiving Day, 1943, the men of the church moved the building on rollers to its present site. The women of the church prepared a picnic dinner.

Bruce Barrow became pastor in 1945, followed by Roy Miller in 1946, Carroll Hansley in 1947, and Russell Millard in 1949. Carroll Hansley became pastor again in 1952. It was during this time that the first record of church deacons appeared on the ledger. The deacons were Henry Goodwin, Randolph Garner, Ken Miller, Joe Barnes, and Willie Page.

In February 1953, Elmer Garner resigned as clerk after having served in this position from 1930 to 1953 for a total of 23 years. Wayne West was elected to fill this position. At the June 22, 1955 quarterly meeting, the building committee reported that it had decided to start repairing and enlarging the church.



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In 1956, Lemmie Taylor became pastor, followed by David Hansley, Jr. in 1959, and Andrew Hill in 1960. Irene Covill served as clerk in 1960, followed by Geraldine Lewis in 1961. In 1962, Raymond Hardison became pastor, and Larry Pelletier served as clerk. Geraldine Lewis was again elected clerk in 1965, when Clifton Styron became pastor. In 1969, Jerry Rowe was elected pastor. Geraldine Lewis was again elected clerk in 1970. June Page served as clerk from January 1972 to July 1972 when Frances Deaver was elected clerk.

After the death of Lester Hall in 1972, a memorial fund was established for a church steeple. In 1973, a steeple was placed on the church in memory of Bro. Lester. In 1975, Carroll Hansley returned to the church as pastor until July 1977, when Gurney Chase took that position until September 1980. Sybil Godley was clerk during this time. In 1980, Francis Garner pastured our church with Nancy Salmon serving as clerk. Nancy Salmon died in 1980 and Carolyn Sharpe Gibson accepted the clerk's position.

On April 7, 1987, A.Graham Lane began pasturing at Sound View, with Phyllis Williams as clerk. There were approximately 124 members in the congregation at this time. On January 4, 1989, Gladys Bailey became clerk, and in June 1997, Grady Simpson became pastor.

On June 16, 1944, Sound View leased the property on which it is currently located from the Oglesby family. In 1998, the Oglesby heirs agreed to give the church a deed to the one-acre tract of land that their ancestors had leased to us years earlier. In September 1999, Ms. Catherine Oglesby gave the church Lot 24, which borders the church property on the east side. This was a tremendous blessing





and we cannot thank her enough for her kindness and generosity. On November 14, 1999, Sound View had an official Oglesby Appreciation Day to honor the Oglesby for helping us to further the mission of our church.

Today our church has 152 active and inactive members. We are looking forward to sharing our heritage together and building for the future. Ms. Catherine Oglesby and the rest of the Oglesby heirs have helped to make this possible. Let us think about the closeness of the early congregation, the pleasure they derived from coming together to worship, and we are, indeed grateful to them for the effort they put forth to make Sound View Original Free Will Baptist Church the special place it is today.

(This information was compiled by Brenda Page and read to the church by Loraine Dickinson for the September 24, 2000, Homecoming Service)





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